



## **Dennis Keys named new Umpire in Chief for USA Softball of Idaho District 8 (Spokane)**

Dennis Keys, a softball umpire for 18 years, is the new USA Softball of Idaho District 8 (Spokane) Umpire in Chief, Commissioner Jamie Stewart announced.

Keys, the 2017 Spokane Softball Umpires Association Umpire of the Year at the youth level, replaces Ken Mathia, who resigned in November after three years to spend more time with his family.

"I again want to thank Ken for his service to USA Softball," said Stewart, emphasizing the importance of family as a priority.



Turning to his selection, Stewart said, "We're all excited about the appointment of Dennis Keys into the role of Umpire in Chief. He will bring a veteran's experience and a rookie's energy to the position."

Keys, 64, echoed that sentiment, noting he feels energy is one of his attributes.

"I want to help make Spokane softball better at all levels," he said. "I'm a good communicator, easy going, and I love our game."

Keys was also a basketball official for 16 years. In fact, he said, it was at a basketball meeting that a friend suggested he give softball umpiring a try. He did and was hooked.

Keys, who is retired following a 14-year career installing sprinkler systems, has umpired in four USA Softball National Championship youth tournaments and two high school State tournaments.

He is a member of the SSUA board of directors and was also its Umpire of the Year-Adult in 2014.

Keys will be assisted by Deputy Umpires in Chief Bryan Raschka and Carl Durr.